

# Shadowing Guide – Foster Care Visitations

**Objectives:** 1. Become familiar with policy requirements for visitation (FOM 722-6).  
2. Take notice of worker preparation for visitation.  
3. Take notice of the types of questions asked by the Foster Care Worker.

**Visitation Types:** Child Visit  
Caregiver Visit  
Parent/Guardian Visit

Shadowing staff gives you an opportunity to experience the most sensitive part of casework. This shadowing guide will present some questions for you to consider as you observe and participate in the visitation.

Please read over the questions BEFORE you accompany anyone on a home visit.

**Interview date and type (Child, Caregiver, or Parent):**

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Type:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Preparation:**

Where is the interview to be held?

If the interview is with the caregiver, is it scheduled or unannounced (FOM 722-6)?

Did the worker call to confirm the appointment?

Are there any worker safety issues to be considered?

Does the Foster care Worker have any specific goals or concerns going into the interview?

**Use the section that applies to the visit type:**

**Child Visit**

Reference FOM 722-6 for policy and DHS Publication 904 and 904A  
Foster Care/Adoption/Juvenile Justice Caseworker/Child Visit Tool

Was each child seen alone during the visit?

How was the Foster Care Worker able to get the child(ren)'s feelings about their stay with the caregivers?

Was the Foster Care Worker able to obtain necessary information about the child(ren)'s interests, education, medical/dental/mental health needs, as applicable?

Was there any discussion of the child(ren)'s permanency plan? How did that go?

Were issues related to parents and/or parenting time addressed?

## Caregiver Visit

Reference FOM 722-6 for policy and DHS Publication 904 and 904A  
Foster Care/Adoption/Juvenile Justice Caseworker/Child Visit Tool

How was the Foster Care Worker able to collect information regarding:

Education/medical/dental/mental health updates?

Behavioral updates (progress, concerns, and developmental milestones)?

Progress towards reaching goals addressed in the service plan and input for Child Assessment of Needs and Strengths (CANS)?

How did the Foster Care Worker work with the caregiver in regards to:

Caregiver tasks to meet the child's need?

Sharing information regarding the permanency plan?

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Visit**

Reference FOM 722-6 for policy

According to policy the worker is to discuss the Family's Needs and Strengths (DHS-145) and Child Assessment of Needs and Strengths.

How did the worker gather information to help make these assessments?

Was there a discussion of parenting time progress?

According to policy the Parent-Agency Treatment Plan (PATP) and Services Agreement must also be discussed. How did the worker collect information about participation in services and compliance with the agreement?